



Sign Ordinance Process

Presented to City Council

May 20, 2014



Uncontrolled Intersections

Who has the right of way????

As per the City Code (Sec. 25-165), the Code of Virginia (46.1-221), and the Federal Guidelines (MUTCD Sec 2B.04)... all state for uncontrolled intersections:

“Except as otherwise specifically provided, when two (2) vehicles approach or enter an intersection at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.”

Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures (SOP 515.18 – Stop Signs)

- This Policy is intended to provide guidelines and procedures to be followed when an inquiry is received for the installation of Stop Signs.
- A stop sign is one of our most valuable and effective control devices when used at the right place and under the right conditions. It is intended to help drivers and pedestrians at an intersection decide who has the right-of-way.
- One common misuse of stop signs is to arbitrarily interrupt through traffic, either by causing it to stop, or by causing such an inconvenience as to force the traffic to use other routes. Where stop signs are installed as "nuisances" or "speed breakers," there tends to be a high incidence of intentional violation. Careful consideration should be exercised when stop signs are to be used as a speed control device.
- Well-developed, nationally recognized guidelines help to indicate when such control becomes necessary. These guidelines take into consideration, among other things, the probability of vehicles arriving at an intersection at the same time, the length of time traffic must wait to enter, and the availability of safe crossing opportunities.

Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures Cont'd.

Public Works is responsible for determining the appropriate application of stop signs requested to be installed within the public right-of-way.

The City installs stop signs based on criteria defined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

- Stop signs are typically NOT for arterials and major collector roadways.

Two-way and one-way stop signs are primarily installed to safely assign who has the right-of-way.

Stop signs should not be installed as a sole means of traffic calming, but only in conjunction with an overall neighborhood traffic calming effort.

Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures Cont'd.

- The process is initiated with either an oral or written request.
- Installation of stop signs may be warranted when:
 - The street upon which traffic is to be stopped: Intersects with a State highway, intersects with an arterial or a collector street.
 - Two arterials or collectors intersect
 - In lieu of traffic signals
 - The hourly vehicle volume or annual accident rate as determined pursuant to the MUTCD guidelines exceeds specific counts and rates, respectively.
 - A vision obstruction exists in the sight triangle

Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures (Cont'd.)

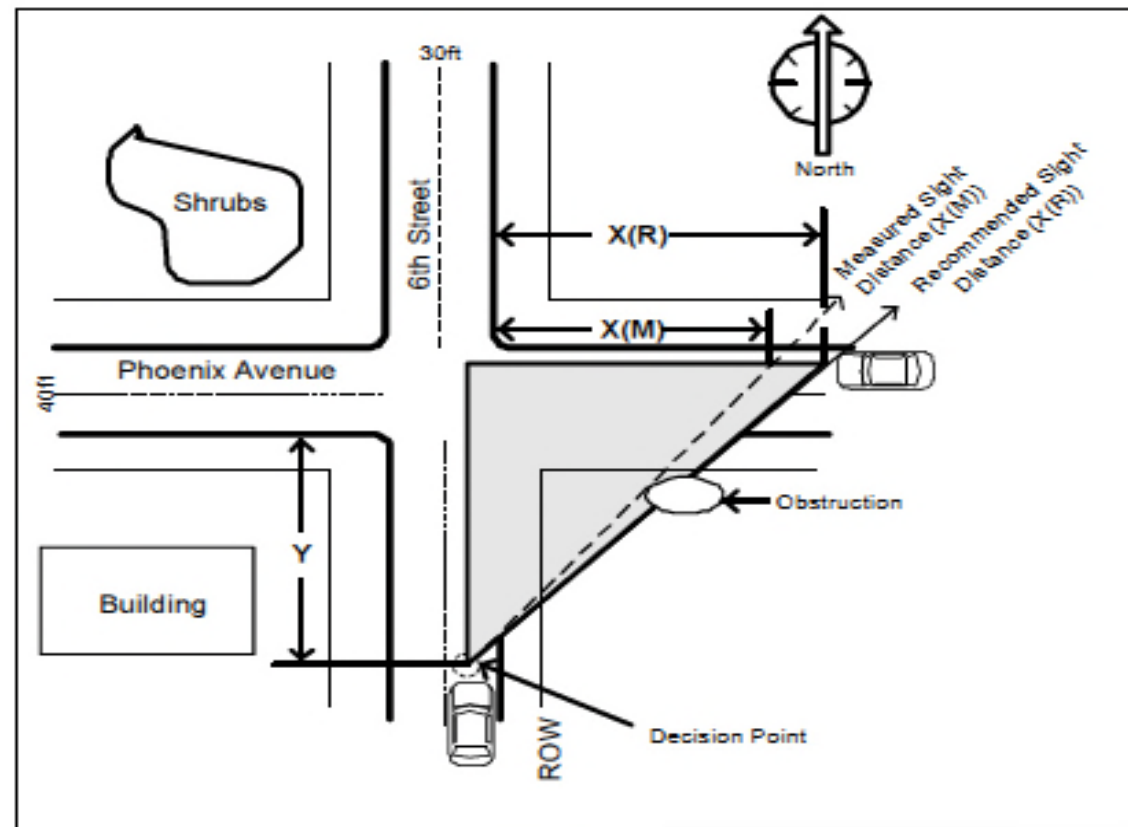
Perform a field investigation to obtain the following:

- Sight distance restrictions, accident data, traffic volume counts, speed data, truck counts, parking surveys, etc.
 - The sight distance area is a clear-view triangle formed on all intersections, Uncontrolled Intersection, from the center of the intersecting streets along the centerlines of both streets and connecting those endpoints to form the hypotenuse of the triangle. When a clear view area within the triangle cannot be maintained on the intersection approaches, installation of stop sign control shall be considered.
- Review other similar intersections in the vicinity.

Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures Cont'd.

A vision obstruction exists in the sight triangle – Many instances that require a stop control are due to the Sight Distance problems as depicted in the figure below:

Sight Distance is determined by vehicle speed, and the approach stopping distance needed at uncontrolled intersections



Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures Cont'd.

Other factors of significance which may be considered when determining the need for a Stop sign include:

- Street width
- Street alignment both vertical and horizontal
- Pedestrian volumes both numbers and time of presence
- Pedestrian crossings/crosswalks
- Street function (residential or through traffic)
- Schools and/or Parks
- Bus stops locations
- Type of vehicular traffic (trucks vs. autos)
- Has there been a change in traffic pattern (volume or direction)?
- Has there been a change in street pattern?
- Volumes
- Accident history

Public Works – Stop Sign Request Procedures Cont'd.

Community input is important

- The appropriate civic league(s) are consulted as part of the process.
- In some cases an entire neighborhood is evaluated.

Evaluate the results:

- If criteria are not met, notify the requesting party in a written form indicating the following:
 - Results of the study conducted.
 - Criteria needed for the specific request.
 - Whether or not further monitoring will be conducted (this depends on the nature of the request).
- If criteria are met, forward the results along with the Director of Public Works recommendation to the City Council and attach an ordinance package.
 - Upon approval as required by City Council install the signs and markings in accordance with the MUTCD and Public Works standards.
 - Notify the Police Department of the type of sign or marking and its location for proper enforcement.



Why are There Stop Sign Requests?

- Citizen concerns about safety and speeding
- Landscaping that has matured and/or fences near intersection corners which have decreased the sight visibility of approaching motorists.

Proposed Sign Change

If approved, the City Code will be amended regarding the posting of traffic control signs as follows:

1. **“Yield”** signs will be repealed and replaced with “Stop” Signs at the intersections of:
 - a) Argonne Avenue at its intersection with Tait Terrace. (Citizen request)
 - b) Broadfield Road at its intersection with Grove Avenue. (Citizen request and worked with Bayview CL President)
 - c) Croyden Road at its intersection with Grove Avenue. (Citizen request and worked with Bayview CL President)
 - d) Grove Avenue at its intersection with Sunset Drive. (Citizen request and worked with Bayview CL President)
2. **“Stop”** sign will be repealed at the street of:
 - a) 27th Bay Street at its intersection with Willben Street.
 - b) And switched to Willben Street at its intersection with 27th Bay Street. (Worked with East Beach HOA)

Proposed Sign Change Cont'd.

- 3) **“One-Way”** signs will be added at the street of:
 - a) Colley Avenue Frontage roads shall be a one-way street, for southbound traffic only, from W 25th Street to W 24th Street. (Request from citizen)
- 4) **“Yield”** sign will be added at the street of:
 - a) Somme Avenue at its intersection with Silber Road. (Worked directly with Fairmount Park Civic League)
- 5) **“Stop”** sign will be added at intersections of:
 - a) Esquire Street at its intersection with Grove Avenue. (Citizen request and worked with Bayview CL President)
 - b) Hale Street at its intersection with Rugby Street (Citizen request)
 - c) Kathy Court at its intersection with Sheppard Avenue (Citizen request)
 - d) Longwood Drive at its intersection with Bluestone Avenue (Citizen request and worked with Larchmont/Edgewater Civic League)
 - e) North View Boulevard at its intersection with Seafarer Avenue (Citizen request)

Proposed Sign Change Cont'd.

- 6) **"Trucks of one and one-half tons or over prohibited on certain streets"** sign will be posted at intersections of:
 - a) Marsh Street, between Berkley Avenue Extension and Indian River Road. [\(Citizen request\)](#)
 - b) Hanson Avenue, between Virginia Beach Boulevard and Booth Street. [\(Request addressed after field meeting with Central Brambleton Civic League President\)](#)
- 7) **Traffic Signal** will be installed at intersection of:
 - a) Granby Street at its intersection with Louisiana Drive.
 - b) Little Creek at its intersection with Suburban Park Shopping Center.
 - c) Saint Paul's Boulevard, mid-block pedestrian crossing.